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LETTER DATED 3 JUNE 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 10 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to you (S/1997/300), and should like to inform you as follows:

1. The claims made in the Iraqi letter with regard to the seizure of an Iraqi fishing boat with five Iraqis on board is a complete fabrication. The truth is that on 22 February 1997 the Kuwaiti authorities arrested five Iraqis inside Kuwaiti territorial waters. After questioning, they were released, as the Red Cross was informed.

2. The claim that a Kuwaiti helicopter hovered over the Iraqi tug Hamdan is a further link in the chain of tendentious fabrications circulated by the Iraqi regime. In fact, the tug Hamdan is merely one of the pieces of wreckage left by the war between Iraq and Iran, and cannot be moved from its position. It should be noted that this position is inside Kuwaiti territorial waters, between latitude 29° 49' 04" N and longitude 48° 22' 00" E, one nautical mile from Bubiyan Island.

I hope these facts will induce the Iraqi regime to refrain from concocting and circulating such fabrications.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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